

CHAPTER 2

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

The Board of Corrections (BOC) works in partnership with city and county officials to develop and maintain standards for the construction and operation of local jails and juvenile detention facilities, and for the employment and training of local corrections and probation personnel. The BOC also inspects local adult and juvenile detention facilities; disburses training funds; administers grant programs that respond to facility construction needs, juvenile crime and delinquency, and mentally ill offenders; and conducts special studies relative to the public safety of California's communities.

In carrying out these major responsibilities, the BOC and its staff work closely with county sheriffs, directors of corrections and chief probation officers, as well as other local officials and community-based service providers, to achieve continued improvement in the conditions of local detention facilities and the delivery of effective local corrections programs.

The BOC was established in 1944 as part of the reorganization of the state prison system. Statutes relating to the authority, programs and mandates of the BOC are contained in the California Penal and Welfare and Institutions Codes. Operating regulations are found in Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, and physical plant regulations are contained in Title 24.

The BOC is composed of 13 members, 10 of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate and three of whom are designated in statute. The appointed members represent specific elements of local juvenile and adult criminal justice systems and the general public. The statutory members are the Secretary of the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency, who serves as Chair of the BOC, and the directors of the Departments of Corrections and Youth Authority. The BOC meets bimonthly and all meetings are open to the public.

FACILITIES STANDARDS AND OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Facilities Standards and Operations Divisions (FSOD) works in collaboration with local corrections agencies to maintain and enhance the safety, security and efficiency of local jails and juvenile detention facilities. Specific activities of the FSOD include:

- Establishing and updating minimum standards regarding the design and operation of local adult and juvenile detention facilities (California Code of Regulations, Titles 15 and 24);
- Inspecting local detention facilities every two years and assisting agencies in their efforts to remain in compliance with minimum standards.
- Reviewing and analyzing all architectural plans for new facility construction and remodeling to determine cost-effectiveness and standard compliance.
- Administering the Jail Profile and Juvenile Detention Profile Surveys, which involve collecting and reporting data providing a statewide profile of local jails and juvenile detention facilities.

- Administering the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant Program, which supports locally developed demonstration projects designed to reduce crime, jail crowding and criminal justice costs related to mentally ill offenders.
- Administering the Juveniles in Jail Removal/Compliance Monitoring Program, which involves monitoring, training and technical assistance activities related to federal compliance issues on the secure detention of status offenders and the separation of minors from adults.
- Providing technical assistance and training to cities and counties regarding standard compliance and various outsourcing opportunities.

CORRECTIONS PLANNING AND PROGRAMS DIVISION

The Corrections Planning and Programs Division (CPPD) develops, administers and evaluates programs in collaboration with local corrections agencies to enhance the effectiveness of correctional systems and improve public safety. Specific activities of the CPPD include:

- Administering the federal Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing Incentive Grant Program, which funds local adult and juvenile detention facility construction projects;
- Administering the County Juvenile Correctional Facilities Act, a state program which supports the construction, renovation, modification and improvement of local juvenile facilities;
- Administering the Juvenile Crime Enforcement and Accountability Challenge Grant Program, which funds demonstration projects aimed at reducing juvenile crime;
- Administering the Repeat Offender Prevention Program, which funds demonstration projects designed to curb recidivism among high-risk offenders;
- Engaging local stakeholders in the development of state-of-the art detention facilities and collaborative, innovative approaches for preventing, reducing and responding to juvenile crime;
- Providing technical assistance, information-sharing opportunities and educational resources to local facility administrators, program managers and project staff; and
- Evaluating the effectiveness of locally developed programs in achieving desired outcomes.

STANDARDS AND TRAINING FOR CORRECTIONS DIVISION

The Standards and Training for Corrections Division (STC) works in collaboration with local corrections agencies and public/private training providers in developing and administering programs designed to ensure the competence of local corrections professionals. Specific activities of the STC include:

- Administering the Corrections Training Fund, which provides monies to local corrections agencies to help offset the cost of meeting selecting and training standards;
- Developing and updating standards which lead to the selection of qualified people for employment and the maintenance of staff proficiency;

- Administering a seven-step selection criteria system that complies with federal and state guidelines;
- Administering a statewide training course certification process that includes a coordinated training delivery system;
- Monitoring participating departments for compliance with standards and assisting agencies in their efforts to remain in compliance; and
- Providing technical assistance and support to local corrections departments and training providers.